

28 January 1958

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence**

**SUBJECT: Congressional Briefings**

On Sunday, 26 January 1958, I met Mr. Bryce N. Harlow, Administrative Assistant to the President. We had not met before and he was most cordial. He spoke of his high regard for the Agency and yourself. However, he spoke strongly of his concern over the number and type of briefings which were being given to various committees of the Congress in recent weeks. He said his worry was about discussing classified intelligence information with so many Congressmen which would get an almost certain printing of the same information in the press soon thereafter. He felt it preferable for CIA to limit itself to intelligence briefings of our own subcommittees in either house. He seemed well aware of our overall problem of Congressional relations and realized that there was an adverse feeling by those Congressmen who are not briefed on the grounds that they felt they had a right to know and he agreed that this was significant in the problem of a joint committee for CIA to which he was strongly opposed. Mr. Harlow said he had discussed his concern over these briefings with General Goodpasture and General Persons and he believed they shared it. He also indicated that there had been some discussions with Representative Rayburn, but his reference to this was somewhat vague. I asked him if there was anything we should do at this time and he said he felt it was basically a White House problem. He observed that your directness and honesty before the committees were commendable, but created certain problems which he did not specify.

**LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON**  
General Counsel

cc: IG  
Col. Grogan  
Legislative Counsel

OGC:LRH:mpg

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Approved For Release 2004/05/12 : CIA-RDP62-00631R000400050017-6